

*Pocahontas*  
West Virginia Writers' Project  
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce & Industry.

Date 4/25/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith

Date Research Taken 4/19, 23, 24/41 <sup>25</sup>

Typist Samuel G. Smith

Date Typed 4/25/41

Source Pocahontas Times. Marlinton.

Date Filed \_\_\_\_\_

R. W Brown Greenbank. W. Va.

And Employes of Gardner Packard at Cloverlick.



Commerce And Industry. Samuel G. Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

41 The first Tub Mill and Saw Mill in the Greenbank community was owned and operated by the pioneer Wooddells probably Joseph Wooddell, this tub mill the top stone is stationary and the bottom stone the runner, while the grist mill the bottom stone is stationary and the top stone the runner a tilt hammer was installed at this mill which was greatly needed by the pioneers in making tools and implements of iron and steel this operation took place on the Henry Wooddell place in Greenbank, the lumber that finished the old colonial house of Jacob Warwick at Cloverlick was sawed on this mill at Greenbank th- some 130 years ago. A Tilt Hammer was installed at this mill which was greatly needed by the pioneers in making tools and implements of iron and steel namely horse shoes, wagon tires, shovel plows, bolts, nails and many others, few people living in the town of Greenbank today know that such a machine as the Tilt Hammer was operated in the town of Greenbank.

About 1799 the water power of North Fork was beginning to be harnessed up this was called Cartmills Creek at that time, here a Tub mill was built that was in operation for 10 to 15 years this was all built by Harman Conrad, his son Solomon in later years remodeled the mill and added to the corn rocks a way to grind buckwheat and wheat and in connection had an Up and Down saw mill and a dry kiln which was always filled with the very best White Pine lumber that found a ready sale. This Solomon Conrad homestead is the oldest house in the Greenbank community.

Commerce & Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

About 1822 Patrick Bruffey built a grist mill and Saw Mill combined and in Connection had a blacksmith Shop and established a wagon shop and supplied the community and surrounding territory with wagons, Bruffey later became Sheriff of Pocahontas County and died 1853 and today you find milling going on at this same location but the mill is known today as The North Fork Milling Co, and from the very first has been the main stand by for the community.

The pioneer Daniel Kerr located on Deer Creek at the close of the Revolutionary War and established a grist mill, saw mill and blacksmith shop and a little later a lathe was installed and was operated by Fredrick Phillips who was a wheel right and made spinning wheels, looms, reels, spools, frames and chairs. This was the only water power mill on Deer Creek.

About 1819 Lundy Taylor settled on Galfords Creek and erected a grist mill and saw mill that was kept running until 1880.

About 1825 to 30 John Yeager erected a saw mill on Block Run a branch of North Fork and it was here that the finishing lumber was sawed for the old log church on the Allegheny Mountain. The old mill site was about two miles from the Yeager homestead and the Allegheny Battle Field on the Block Run the Monongahela National Forest passes through the old mill dam.

A few years after the Civil War Dr. J. P. Moonau erected an Up & Down mill near Greenbank, the lumber sawed was mostly Cherry which was sold to cabinet makers in this section and was made into furniture for the settlers of

Commerce And Industry Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas County.

41  
Greenbank community.,a carding machine was installed along with this mill turning out wool yarn to the many weavers of that time in and around Greenbank this carding machine was operated by William B Woodell.

The last water power Saw Mill on North Fork was built and operated by Robert J Brown on Sutton Run,it was built about 1885 and was kept in running condition until 1907 in connection with this Saw Mill there was a rip saw,shingle mill,turning lathe and planing mill this was the first planing mill in the Greenbank community the finished lumber being used to finish the many houses that were being built by the settlers at this time.

The germs of time and decay have destroyed all the water power mills in this section except the North Fork Milling Company mill which is still in operation.

North Fork and Deer Creek of the Deer Creek valley beautiful mountain streams flow gently toward the sea with their power unharnessed.

Pocahontas County has many mountain streams and if harnessed would furnish an abundance of power to run machinery and generate electricity some of the most famous streams are Hills Creek,Locust Creek and Stamping Creek in the southern end of Pocahontas County,Williams River,Swago Creek,Beaver Creek,Knapps Creek and Clover Creek of the center of the county the latter Clover Creek has been harnessed near Cloverlick with a dam and a <sup>generator</sup> dinamo that furnish



Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.  
electricity to Cloverlick and the surrounding terretory this wasser wheel  
was installed by Berry Coyner of Cloverlick, and was erected in 1937 with a  
franchise from the state to set poles and furnish electricity to the people  
of Cloverlick and near by terretory.

*of Balt. mdr*  
In 1931 a man by the name of Gardner Packard with his cousin the  
late William C Gardner started the operation of a post and rail plant at Cl-  
overlick the posts were locust and the rails of Chestnut bought from farmers

of Pocahontas County it required many thousand of each this has furnished a  
market for our locust and Chestnut timber they were trucked to Cloverlick and  
there finished ready for shipment to New York and Maryland to be used for fen-  
cing as the salt water from the ocean in the mist that covers certain areas of  
these states causes fast decay of metal fencing most of these rails and post  
went to Long Island, they also made what is known as hurdle fence that went to  
New York state to be built on some of the old colonial estates where they have  
and raise fancy horses namely the Whitneys, Vanderbilts and others, the power to  
run this plant is generated at Cloverlick. This operation not only furnishes a  
market for our timber but furnishes employment to many men either at the plant  
or in trucking or cutting the timber from all over Pocahontas County.

These posts and rails are shipped out over the C & O from Cloverlick  
to Maryland, New York and other seaboard states.

Other streams that could be put to use in Pocahontas County are Deer

41 Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.  
Creek, North Fork, Galfords Creek, Sitlington Creek and a part of Cheat River  
of the upper half of the county and Elk River of the North Western part, the  
future of these streams is in in the making as they could be harnessed so as  
to furnish power for the entire county, electricity for the rural sections.

Greenbrier River with the fall it has could be put to work furnishing  
electricity for both power and lights and it is hoped that in the near futu-  
re some one will undertake to harness some of our many streams thereby furn-  
ishing electricity and power to the rural sections of Pocahontas County this  
would cause the wheels of industry to roll and Pocahontas County would again  
be one of W. Va. s industrial counties.

Information. Ist part from Pocahontas Times and R. W Brown. Greenbank. W. Va.

latter part. observation and employes of Gardner Packard working at Clover-  
lick.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Juanita S. Dilley

Clover Hick. W. Va.

Chapter 5 section 3b

July 12, 1940

TANNERS, MILLERS AND BLACKSMITHS

NORTH FORK MILL

This mill was erected by Uriah Hevener, Sr., in the year of 1879, on the site of the old Bruffey flour mill. Patric Bruffey had erected a flour mill on the same site about the year of 1825 which was deiven by an over shot water wheel; he also had an up and down saw mill driven by the same water power arrangment, which had been supplanted by a new saw mill in the 1870's

In the last few years the mill was operated under the firm name of The North Fork Milling Company, but was known far and near as the Hevener Mill. It was erected when the famous white pine trees were plentiful and all the frame work was hewed and dressed by hand, all the framing was mortised, draw bored and pinned with locust pins. No spikes were used in the frame work. The entire building was four stories high including the basement and was a complete masterpiece of architecture. The modern carpenter would always stand in admiration and marvel at its perfect construction.

The services of James Elliott was secured to build the mill and with the help of Eldridge Brown and a Mr. Propps did all the carpenter work on the building. Charles P. Brown laid the foundation and did the mason work. The machinery was put into perfect running condition by a millwright by the name of Corann and Robert J. Brown, carpenter helper.

Many different millers operated the mill during the past sixty years. Perhaps Robert W. Gum worked the mill longer than any other miller.

In keeping up with industry, and in view of the needs of the Greenbank community it may be observed that the old Bruffey mill and the Havener mill was a center of industry and had their place of importance in the niche of the history of the Greenbank community.

James Elliott, the master mechanic of the building was a soldier in the Indian wars; was a private under the command of General George A. Custer, and General Reno. He was with Reno's army when Custer's company was massacred in 1876. Mr. Elliott's affidavit was taken by Squire John P. Townsend in 1926 for the purpose of securing a pension as an Indian war veteran. He died before the papers were ratified by the U. S. Government. He was a Confederate soldier in the Civil War under the command of General Kirby Smith, and Dick Taylor in the South West. After the war he worked his way from Mississippi to Iowa, and from there in company with a man named Reynolds went to the Dakotas on a trapping expedition and thereby enlisted in Custer's Army.

On Saturday night, March 2, 1940 the North Fork Mill was utterly and completely destroyed by fire. This disaster is considered the most unfortunate event of a calamitous nature that has affected the Greenbank neighborhood since the days of the Civil War. J. B. Orndorf owner of the mill had worked in the mill all day without fire. Different persons had passed the mill just after dark and saw no light or fire. The fire was discovered about 7 p.m., by Clyde Gillispie and Cecil Arbogast who live near by:



the whole inside was a mass of flames when first discovered. In less than half an hour the whole structure was a mass of ruined machinery. The entire loss is estimated at more than \$10,000.

The two turbine drive wheels are still in the water deck in regular arrangement. This mill has been the main stand by for the neighborhood for a period of about sixty years. - *From Times - By Roscoe Brown of Greenbank*

\* Patrick Bruffey, who erected the mill on this site in 1825 was a very useful and prominent citizen; a skilled workman in stone, iron and wood, and filled most of the official positions in the gift of the county.

\* John Jordan, the ancestor of the relationship of that name in lower Pocahontas, was a very worthy native of Ireland. By occupation he was a tailor, and when he once met a fellow member of the craft after a prolonged separation his friend was very demonstrative in the pleasure the meeting afforded him. In his joyful exhilaration he struck his friend Jordan on the back of his hand with a side blow of his own. This friendly lick was so powerful as to inflict a bruise so serious in its effects as to necessitate amputation of the arm just below the elbow. Nevertheless he learned to use a hoe or ax to a good purpose in after life. He came to this region as a traveling merchant, dealing in Irish linens and other portable merchandise. He was a "hard money" man in his financial preferences, and converted all paper money he received into silver and gold. Miss Miriam McNeel, daughter of John McNeel the pioneer, found out in some way that the young merchant had about a half bushel of coin, and it seemed to occur to her mind that if a person disabled as he was could make that much money,

he could certainly take good care of her. To the surprise of her friends that a nice sensible girl as she was should fancy a cripple, but she did not discourage the attentions of the hustling young Irishman, and they were married. At that period in our local history a young mans recommendation was his ability to clear land, split rails, and grub stumps, but to marry a cripple in store clothes was not to be thought of.

After their marriage Mr. Jordan continued to prosper in making a living, and purchased some servants to wait on the girl that had made such a surprising venture as to marry him. He settled on Millstone Run and opened up a fine farm. There were five sons and three daughters.

#### THE MCNEEL MILL

The McNeel mill at Millpoint was built about eighty years ago by Isaac McNeel. Mr. McNeel owned the mill until his death, after which time it belonged to his son Dr. Winters McNeel of Millsboro. On July 8th. I visited this mill and was told by the present proprietor G. N. Dalton that this mill had ~~always~~ been in operation practically every week day since its erection 80 years ago. He said that he had visitors from many states and that they believed it to be the only remaining frame key building in the world. I am not authority enough on the mills of the world to say if this is correct, but it is probably the only one in the county. At any rate the frame work is put together without nails, and is so well built that after 80 years there is not a give in the building, but it stands there as solid as if built only yesterday. This mill grinds both corn and wheat. Throughout the years it had ground unbleached flour, the only mill in the county that did not

*Culture { It is at Summers grinds unbleached flour*

*...the sheen worked the wool up into the ...*

have a bleacher. Mr Dalton says that he has been told by authorities that it is the only known mill grinding unbleached flour.

However, in April 1940 a bleacher was installed, but he says that many people of the vicinity still prefer the unbleached flour and that he grinds about four barrels per month. Bread made from the unbleached flour is said not only to be more delicious but is also more healthful as bleaching takes out all of the oils. Mr. Dalton runs the mill for Mr. McNeel on a percentage bases, and he tells me that he is busy most of the time grinding flour, meal, and feed. The original water wheel was a wooden overshot wheel, but was replaced several years ago by a metal wheel.

There has been a mill at Millpoint ever since the one erected by Valentine Cackley, Sr. in 1800, and it has always been a paying business as there are so many good farms in the surrounding country side and much stock is also raised, therefore feed is always in demand. Both the Cackley mills were located a short distance down stream from the McNeel mill.

Wooden overshot water wheels wear out; they would get heavy on the shady side. The shrewd salesman from the north would then show the advantage of the steel fabricated water wheel and of the turbine. Take an artfully constructed water wheel out of commission and it is surprising how quickly it went to pieces.

Now while a mountain man who is worth his salt and tobacco can still take an axe and make a grist mill complete, big or little, as his present need may require, I must admit that we quit training up skilled, professional mill wrights a generation back, about the time we let ourselves get out of bear dogs.



## WILLIAMS MILL

However, a mill run by an overshot wooden water wheel is still to be found in Pocahontas. It was made and is still owned by Squire G. M. Williams of Bruffeys Creek. Some years ago for his own convenience and that of his neighbors he rigged himself up a grist mill. He worked rainy days and made himself a water wheel fifteen feet in diameter, out of wood. It makes around eight revolutions per minute. For a spindle he used the drive shaft of a tractor steam engine, gear and all. He dammed Bruffeys Creek to put the water in a sluiceway he dug around the hillside. For corn rocks he had the choice of French burrs or a pair of millstones made from Allegheny pebblestone out of the old Smith Mill on Greenbrier River above Seebert. The squire says the Allegheny stone is far superior to the much vaunted French burrs, as the Allegheny stone does not wear like other burrs, and so do not require dressing up so often. A Mr. Couch, railroad man and utility magnate from the Ozark region of Arkansas, wishes to make a grist mill run with an overshot water wheel; all home made. So, He sent three young men to Pocahontas to see what we had in the way of mills of this type. The Williams mill was visited and measurements and pictures taken.

They also visited the old Beard mill on Locust Creek, now owned by Sydney McCoy. (Read-Pocahontas Times, July 4, 1940 under item "Milling Around" for part of the above material.)

I visited the tannery of Benton Smith at Millpoint only a few days after Mr. Price and the three Arkansas travelers were there. I wanted to get the names of all the Smiths who had been tanners. He says that the first Smith of his family, so far as he



knows, was James Smith who was bound to a tanner in Staunton, Va. until he was twenty-one years of age. Then he came to Pocahontas County and rented Wallaces Tannery at Millpoint. He never had a tannery of his own. He had five sons, three of whom were tanners. Jake Smith had his tannery located at Edray, but he did not make up his leather. William Smith had no tannery but he made harness, saddles, and shoes. He also lived at Edray. It is probable that he bought the leather from his brother Jake. Joe Smith had a tannery and was located at Millpoint. Isaac Smith, another son, had his tannery on the Greenbrier River between Seebert and Watoga. Pleas Smith, the fifth son, lived at Edray and was a country doctor.

Edgar A. Smith, father of Benton Smith, has a tannery near Watoga. He tans the leather and does some repair work but does not make up much of his leather. Benton Smith says that he worked in the tannery with his father until four years ago, at which time he moved to Millpoint and built a tannery of his own. His is the good old oak tanned leather. The first spell is in the vat for one month; the second is for two months; the third for three months. If the leather is light that is enough. The fourth is for four months, and this is for heavy sides for sole leather. There were a lot of bear pelts in the process of tanning and the deer hides numbered more than one hundred. Mr. Smith has demand for tanned calf skin for leathercraft work. He makes harness and mens belts.

# Andrew Young was a shoemaker.

Sampson Nottingham-----a shoemaker.

Henry Arbogast-----a blacksmith.

Jacob Yeager -----a blacksmith.

Samuel Gay of Elk-----a blacksmith.

Abraham Hill -----a blacksmith.

Joseph Friel----- a blacksmith.

Thomas Mays-----made shoes and harness. He lived  
on Browns Creek.

*# From Court Records.*

July 16, 1940

#### DUNMORE MILLS

I went to Dunmore yesterday to try to get the history of the mills up there. From a history of Dunmore written by Miss Ella Pritchard several years ago I got the following;

" The only flour mill for a number of miles was located at Dunmore, and run by a splendid water power which never froze nor went dry, making it dependable. The older mill was run by what is called an overshot wheel. Later another mill was erected by Col. Stephen Cornelius Pritchard who used the turbine wheel for power. On this old water power location was also an up and down saw mill, a carding machine which did splendid work, and a planing machine which made Dunmore a very business center."

As near as I can get it by what the older people tell me, Andrew Mathews built the first mill on this location some time before the Civil War. No one seems to know if he also owned the saw mill and carding machine or not, but since they were run by the same power, it is believed that he did.

According to Miss Ella Pritchard, Andrew Mathews sold his land to William L. Duncan and Isaac Moore. They changed the name of the place from Mathewville to Dunmore, using a combination of their names. Duncan then sold to John W. Warwick in 1855, and in 1860 it was bought by John Andrew Warwick, who in turn sold to a Mr. Johnson of Warm Springs, Va. Then in 1873, Cornelius Pritchard

exchanged a farm on Jackson River for this land at Dunmore. He built the present mill not long after he moved here. Therefore it was built sometime in the 1870's.

Cam McLaughlin, the present owner of the mill showed me through the old mill and explained the purpose of each machine. All of the old original machinery, cog wheels and all are of wood, and still in use. Lumber for the mill was sawed on the old up and down saw mill. Every piece was cut on the ground and ready for assemblage before the foundation was ever laid. Then when Mr. Pritchard started to build, all he had to do was to put it together. The old wheel was an overshot wooden wheel, this was replaced by a turbine. Mr Pritchard died leaving the mill to his heirs. They did not run it themselves but rented it or hired millers to run it for them. Among those caring for the mill for a time were Luther Campbell and Jack Duffy. About fifteen years ago the mill was bought by Cam McLaughlin. He built an addition to it which he used as a garage. For many years the mill was idle. Mr. McLaughlin made a wooden wheel to generate power for lights and to charge batterys etc. This wheel was replaced a few years ago by a metal wheel. About three years ago Mr. McLaughlin started the old mill to running again. Few people liked the unbleached flour so he does not grind wheat but uses the wheat burrs to grind buckwheat flour. It also has a corn burr.

There is some talk now of it being sold to a brewery company who wish to use the mineral water. Whether this deal goes through remains to be seen.

The Dunmore Roller Mill built by Winifred McElwee was not built until 1912.



Juanita S. Dilley  
Clover Lick, W.Va.  
Pocahontas County

James E. A. Gibbs

Gibbs was a mechanic, a man of the tenant class who barely made a living for himself and his large family. For a time he was in charge of a combined grist mill, carding machine, and sawmill built by James A. Price at Marlins Bottom.

The idea of making a sewing machine came to Gibbs while he lived in the Little Levels on lands belonging to Col. Samuel Ruckman. It is said that his working model was carved by him from a laurel root.

He went into partnership with a man by the name of Wilcox at Wilmington, Delaware. Gibbs came back to Marlinton, leaving Wilcox to introduce the machine to the public. The Civil War broke out and he remained here. The Gibbs family almost starved.

When communication was opened with the north, after the war, Gibbs found that Wilcox had made a great success of the sewing machine, and had banked Gibbs' part of the money for him. Gibbs returned to Delaware and from that time on he was a rich man.

In the 1890's, Gibbs came back to Marlinton for several visits. He was over six feet tall and wore a tall silk hat. He said at that time that he had taken out 163 patents. His chain stitch sewing machine was known for generations as the Wilcox and Gibbs machine.

From---Pocahontas Times-Jan. 2, 1930  
Calvin Price

Pocahontas Times---1923  
Andrew Price



PocahontasHenita S. Dilley  
Haver Lick, W. Va.  
Dec. 19, 1940

Ch. 4, b. question 2 - Small Businesses

5, 3-b, question 2 - Millers.

\* John Johnson, whose home was at Marlins Bottom, heard that corn had matured in Nicholas. He started on foot to Nicholas, but lost his way in the Black Mountains. He was lost for nine days, but finally made his way to a house. There he was given food gradually until he could take a full meal. He made the trip to Nicholas, brought back the seed corn which planted one of the first crops grown in Pocahontas.

By the early part of the century corn could be ripened in the county, and since the people preferred corn meal to hominy meal, many grist and tub mills were built.

Some of the best known of these mills were: The two mills at Millpoint, built by the Cackleys. The lower mill being built by Valentine Cackley, who also promoted other industries such as a tannery, a tin hammer and a store. This was around 1830. The upper mill was built by Joseph Cackley in 1834 but was later sold to Sampson Matthews.

The Poage Mill on Knapps Creek. This mill was built in the late part of the 18th century by James Poage. When he emigrated to Kentucky, he sold it to Peter Lightner. Lightner improved it and for years commensated a wide circle of customers. The Henry Harper mill succeeded this mill. The burrs used by this mill are on Cummings Creek, having been taken there by Price McComb. They are believed to be among the oldest in the county. These millstones were made by Adam Sharatt near Friels on the Greenbrier River. Sharatt also had a mill on Greenbrier River.

Dilley's mill, eight miles from Huntersville on Thorpe Creek was built by Henry Dilley one of the four Dilley brothers who were among Pocahontas County's earliest pioneers. This mill was kept in the possession of the Dilleys throughout its years of service to the public, and the farm on which it stands is still in their possession.

The Michael Daugherty mill on Mill Run near Sunset. This is believed to be the first tub mill, propelled by water anywhere in this whole region. It was patronized by all sections of upper Pocahontas and had the reputation of being one of the best of its kind. Sometimes these tub mills were put on runs that had only sufficient water during the rainy season. For such mills a long hollow log was often used for trunking to carry the water to the wheel. These mills did not grind so much but their product was the sweetest and best obtainable. Michael Daugherty was one of the first of the nobility to settle on Knapps Creek. He was not only able to pay his own passage to America, but to hire the services of those who sold themselves as indented servants for a certain period of time.

Swago Mill operated by Jonathan McNeill. He was the eldest son of Thomas McNeill who came to Swago around 1769 and appears to have been an enterprising person. Milling, weaving, fulling cloth and powder making was carried on under his supervision. Coverlets woven by one Jones were still in use fifty years or more after they were woven. This mill is now held by Judge George McClintic, though of course its no longer in use.

There were many other grist mills. David James one of the first men to live on Droop Mountain had a mill. James Wanless a local minister operated two grist mills. Henry Clark had a mill on Spring Creek, but I haven't been able to get any authentic information about them. In fact, in every community of the county there were mills at one time or another. Mills have been placed on almost every stream of water large enough to turn a small wheel if only during the rainy season.

The burrs or stones for many of these mills were made from sandstone found in this county in such great quantity and of unusual hardness. Calvin Price has a pair of these mill stones made more than a century ago by John Hannah of Elk, for the mill that was on the Varner place on the Big Spring Fork of Elk R. They were given to Mr. Price by the late Samuel Varner when he sold his farm. They are about 30 inches in diameter, and weigh over 100 lbs. each. Mr. Price believes they are made of this Droop sandstone found here in the county.

However, as soon as it was possible, the home made millstones were replaced with imported stones. French burrs appear to have been the desired ones in the more permanent mills that did custom grinding. The early settler was a resourceful man and if he could not get the imported ones he made them from material at hand.

About the Varner Mill, the story goes that John Hannah built the outfit complete in one day except the "jigging thing". That appears to have been the bark or board attached to the bottom, stationary stone, down which spouted the meal. These mills served well their day and an occasional one can be found still standing, though not in use. (Some of these mills were repaired and used by the moonshiners during the days of prohibition.)

Aside from these grist mills there were also powder mills located on many of the mill runs of the county. The original name of Mill Run on Lanty McKeel's place between Hillsboro and Beard, was Powder Mill Run. The site of the power mill was just above where the county road crosses. The powder maker was a man by the name of Hannah. He had a peculiar and effective line of sales talk. He would remark that he made powder and had plenty of it, and would sell it, but that many of the hunters did not like his product, in fact he did not particularly care to use it himself. This of



reply would be that it was too quick. A quick powder of course was the one most desired for the old type of mountain rifle.

Thomas McNeill, the Swago pioneer, maintained considerable of a powder plant on Swago Creek, near the residence of Squire Rogers. He boiled his salt petre from the rich soil to be found in the limestone caves of this region, particularly the cave on the McClintic lands not far from the residence of Lee Overholt. The proper amounts of sulphur, nitrogen, charcoal and what not were compounded together and the paste had to be mixed like the lady beats a cake. Thomas McNeill had a mill to do this stirring and beating by water power, and to grind the mass into powder after it was dry. One day he had a big stirring of powder on a grinding and went home to dinner. Something went wrong: somehow a spark was generated, and the whole thing, mill and all, blew up.

Information: History of Pocahontas County - Price  
and from old copies of the Pocahontas Times dated  
August 13, 1931.

The first business of any kind established at Marlins Bottom (Marlinton) was a combined saw mill and carding mill built by James A. Price before the Civil War. It was located on the slough along the road leading to Campbelltown, just opposite the home of A. C. Pifer. It was run from water from Stony Creek. An effort to augment this power by water from Greenbrier River from an intake just below the mouth of Stony Creek failed, and the plant itself was washed away in the flood of 1877. This mill was in charge of a man by the name of James E. A. Gibbs, who was a man of the tenant class and who barely made a living for himself and a large family.

From the Pocahontas Times - 1923.

A few families, such as John R. Flemmens on Red Lick Mountain made hundreds of pounds of maple sugar every year. It was stirred until it pulverized and became as light as brown sugar. Much of it was taken to



Juanita S. Dilley  
Clover Lick, W. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

October 4, 1940

Chapter 5 Pioneer Industry

## MILLS ---- BLACKSMITHS ---- TANNERS

The first mill ever built on Stony Creek was a small tub mill built by Henry Duncan in 1824. He served his apprenticeship in Virginia and came to Pocahontas as one of our first carpenters. He helped build the old Court house at Huntersville, the old brick Oak Grove Church and old Hamline Chapel log church. His tub mill was at the head of the Big Spring. He leased this land for a period of eight years and built thereon a mill. It ground corn and buckwheat. It is believed that he discontinued the mill at the end of his lease and that John Duffield built his mill about seventeen years later.

Court records show that John Duffield bought land on Stony Creek in 1839. No doubt he built the mill a short time after coming into possession of the land. This tract of land consisting of 380 acres was a part of 22,000 acres originally patented to Henry Philips assee of James Patent and was sold on August 6, 1839 by Jacob H. Arbogast, Commissioner of Delinquent Lands. John Duffield was the highest bidder.

This mill was an old log building. It ground both corn and wheat. It was run by an overshot, wooden water wheel.

On January 31, 1878 Jacob Waugh bought of John Duffield 78.75 acres on which was built a mill for the sum of \$600. And on February 20, 1895 the heirs of Jacob Waugh sold the "Duffield Mill Property" to Samuel D. Waugh for \$1800. On February 28, 1899 Samuel D. Waugh sold the property to Godfrey Geiger for \$1800.

and Bank  
No. 13  
26

*Book no. 28*  
 Godfrey Geiger owned and operated this mill until June 8, 1929 when he sold it to the present owner Tolbert Waugh. This mill has both corn and wheat burrs but Mr. Waugh does not use the wheat burrs.

The old log mill built by John Duffield was torn down and the present mill built by Jacob Waugh and sons in 1890.

*no. 10-169*  
 Perhaps the next grist mill to be built on Stony Creek was one built by Nathan Barlow in 1850 which ground corn only. In connection with this mill was a carding machine. This mill stood just below where the fish hatchery now is. It was run by a wooden overshot water wheel. On May 7, 1872 Nathan Barlow sold this property to James Auldridge. Mr. Auldridge used this mill until 1890 when it was discontinued and some time later was torn down. The burrs were sold to a man by the name of Cassell and they were taken up on Leatherbark and put in a mill built by Cassell.

*Book no. 10-7157*  
 Wesley Barlow had a tan yard where the barn Hepsidam now stands. This is just above the fish hatchery and in sight of the Nathan Barlow mill. It is said that one time Mr. Barlow let the fire get out and he ran up over the hill calling, "Help I Dan", and since he did not speak plain it sounded like he was saying "Heps i dam" and the place has been called Hepsidam ever since. He sold his tanyard to James Auldridge in 1872. This made Auldridge owner of a grist mill, a carding machine and a tanyard from 1872 until 1890. People still referr to it as the Jimmy Auldridge mill.

At the head of the Big Spring branch of Stony Creek was a grist mill and an up and down saw mill built by Isaac Moore sometime prior to the Civil war, perhaps this mill was built before the Barlow mill. During the summer and fall of 1861 Edray swarmed with soldiers on the march and in camp. Mr. Moore contracted camp fever then measles, from which he died Dec. 5, 1861. From that time until 1884 the mill was run by his son Taylor Moore. On March 1, 1884 Taylor Moore and Mary C. his wife deeded to George H. McLaughlin 24 acres on Stony Creek including the head of the Big Spring branch and a water grist mill and a saw mill for \$1800. This mill ground both corn and wheat. In connection with the mill the McLaughlins had a still which made peach and apple brandy.

In 1900 D. L. Barlow built a planing mill and a corn grist mill just about where the bridge now is. It was run by a turbine. This mill was discontinued in 1910.

The first saw mill on Stony Creek was an up and down mill built by William Cochran where Porter Sharp now lives. According to Hardesty's Encyclopedia this was the first saw mill in Edray District. He also had a blacksmith shop and a tilt hammer.

The only mill now in operation on Stony Creek is the grist mill owned by Tolbert Waugh. But there have been some larger saw mill that will be covered in chapter 7.



4

Mr. and Mrs. George Courtney of Buckeye were weavers by trade. It is said that they made a good living with the proceeds of the loom.

George White on Laurel Creek had an up and down saw mill.

John Tyler of Edray was a blacksmith. He made wagons and was a master of repairing machinery. The only man in Pocahontas county at that time who could put cogs in the masterwheel of the old horse power threshers.

Jake and John Simmons were shoemakers, and Buck Waugh on Greenbrier river was a shoemaker.

#### MILLS AT MILL POINT

These old mills built by the Cackleys have been mentioned in previous reports, but in this I am going to trace their ownership from the beginning to the present.

The lower mill which stands just over the bank below the state highway, was first built by Valentine Cackley, Sr. about 1800 and was one of the very first mills ever built in Pocahontas county. At the death of Valentine Cackley, Sr. the mill went into the hands of his heirs Valentine Cackley, Jr. and others. The mill was either rebuilt or repaired by them in the 1830's. In 1856 they sold the mill to Dr. Mathew Wallace. Dr. Wallace brought a man by the name of Roch from Monroe county to run the mill for him. Roch's descendants have continued to be millers and millwrights. Along with this mill property was also a carding machine a blacksmith shop and a tannery, all of the built by the Cackleys. James Smith was one of the tanners to work in this tannery during the ownership of Dr. Wallace. ( see report for June 12, 1940 page 7 )



In 1882 Dr. Wallace sold this property to Uriah Bird. Bird did not use the carding machine during his period of ownership. The old Cackley mill was torn down by Uriah Bird and the present mill erected on almost exactly the same site.

In 1892 Bird sold this mill property to Wellington T. Hogsett. He was a preacher therefore did not run the mill himself. Some of those who took care of the mill for him were: John Burgess, John Dotson, James Gabbert, Steel McClintic, O. E. Wilson, Henry Poage, and W. L. (Bud) Hogsett.

~~Joe~~ Dilley and a colored man by the name of George Lee were two of the blacksmiths who have worked in this shop.

This grist mill ground corn, wheat, buckwheat, and feed. "Bud" Hogsett was a good mechanic and during the time he run the mill he did some repair on it, putting it in excellent condition. He also bought new teeth for the carding machine and set it to running again. People say that this was the best carding machine ever built in the county and people for many miles brought their wool here to be carded. (Because of some dissatisfaction among the heirs, he quit the mill). For upon the Death of W. T. Hogsett the property went to his heirs of whom "Bud" Hogsett was one.

The Hogsett heirs still own this mill, but they say that it does not pay them to hire a miller to run it for them and for some reason the estate has never been settled. The mill has been idle for the past four years. The dam is now washed out but other than that the mill is in very good condition.

The upper mill was built by Joseph Cackley some time soon after the lower mill was built. There was also an up and

down saw mill on this location built either by the Cackleys or by Sampson L. Mathews. It went into the possession of Valentine Cackley and James Cackley and they sold it to Sampson L. Mathews in 1834. Mathews then moved from his home on Swago and spent the remainder of his life at Mill Point. Mary the only child of Sampson L. Mathews married William H. McClintic and came into possession of the mill and saw mill upon the death of her father in 1854. In 1865 William H. McClintic sold this property to Isaac McNeel. (see report for June 12. 1940 for the history of McNeel's mill) Isaac McNeel built the present mill just a short distance from the <sup>site of the</sup> old Cackley mill.

Hunter McClintic, son of William H. McClintic, built the old red mill on Swago. It was just below the site if the old Jonathan and Phebe McNeill mill. It ground both corn and flour, and was built sometime in the 1880's. It was called McClintic's Old Red Mill. Grose and Armentrout were the millwrites. This mill has been idle for a good many years, and was torn down a few years ago.

#### Beard Mill Property-----Locust Creek

The first mill on this property is believed to have been built by Josiah Beard, a pioneer, and seems to have been rebuilt, or a new mill built by his son Edwin Beard. I could find no date as to when the mill was built but in July 1893 Edwin L. Beard and Mollie his wife sold the "Beard Mill Property" to W. H. Overholt. In 1897 L. J. Williams was appointed Special Commissioner to sell the land as decreed by the June term of court in the suit of L. J. Williams and J. C. Patterson, trustees, vs W. H. Overholt

7

and others. A. P. Mathews became the purchaser for \$2900 for lien upon land. Said Mathews signified to have the deed made to R. W. Hill and E. L. Beard. 25 acres including a Grist mill and Water power known as the Beard Mill Property. The deed was given March 5, 1901. In 1905 there was another suit of chancery over this property, and in 1907 it was sold to Charles S. Donnally. Donnally owned the mill until in 1911 when he sold to J. F. Gabbert. Gabbert later sold it to Bertie Hiner and husband, T. H. Hiner. In 1922 there was another suit of chancery and on November 13, 1923 L. M. McClintic, Special Commissioner, Bertie Hiner and T. H. Hiner deeded it to James W. H. Poage who on March 17, 1925 sold it to W. W. McCoy, and on December 30, 1931 it was bought by Sidney McCoy the present owner. I think one would be perfectly safe in saying that this mill has the distinction of having changed hands more times than any other mill in all Pocahontas County.

#### Dilleys Mill---Thorny Creek

\* Dilleys Mill was first built by Henry Dilley, the pioneer, and in 1843 was deeded to his son John Dilley along with all of his lands on Thorny Creek, for support of he and his wife in their old age. John Dilley was a mechanic of remarkable skill to be a self trained workman. He was honest and industrious, and it is believed by his friends that he sacrificed his health to his useful calling through exposure. William H. Dilley another son was for many years the village blacksmith at Huntersville. John Dilley seems to have had but one child Frances wife of Leuit. Henry Moffett Poage who was killed during the Civil War. Mrs. Poage had died some time previously. As near as I can trace the ownership



## Inventory of Materials

Subject: Industry  
Topic: Old Mill W. Va.Title: Mill Point  
Old mill on bank of Stamping CreekAuthor: Postmaster of Mill PointDate submitted: Nov 23, 1937

Reply to letter

Length: \_\_\_\_\_ words.

Status:

Contents:

Built about 1868 is still operating.

Sources:

Consultant:

Reliability:

File: \_\_\_\_\_

Folder: \_\_\_\_\_



WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
OF WEST VIRGINIA

312 Smallridge Building,  
Charleston, W.Va.

J. N. ALDERSON  
ADMINISTRATOR

November 18, 1937.

Postmaster of Mill Point,  
West Virginia.

Dear Sir:

A few facts connected with the history of the old  
overshot water mill just west of the highway on the bank of  
Stamping Creek are needed by the Federal Writers' Project for  
the completion of the Mill Point story. I shall be greatly  
obliged if you will supply the answers to the following  
questions:

*A Carpenter by the name of Reed built the mill.*  
By whom was it built? *Mr. Isaac McNeil was the owner & had it built.*  
When was it built? *About 1868 or later part of 60's.*  
Is it now in operation? *Yes.*  
If not, when was it abandoned?

Thanking you for your kind cooperation, I am,

Very truly yours,

*John L. Stender*  
John L. Stender,  
State Director  
Federal Writers' Project.

JLS:ew

*R. H. Auldridge.*  
*Postmaster of Mill Point.*

86566  
2798

Jacob Yeager -----a blacksmith.

Samuel Gay of Elk-----a blacksmith.

Abraham Hill -----a blacksmith.

Joseph Friel----- a blacksmith.

Thomas Mays-----made shoes and harness. He lived  
on Browns Creek.

*# From Court Records.*

July 16, 1940

#### DUNMORE MILLS

I went to Dunmore yesterday to try to get the history of the mills up there. From a history of Dunmore written by Miss Ella Pritchard several years ago I got the following;

" The only flour mill for a number of miles was located at Dunmore, and run by a splendid water power which never froze nor went dry, making it dependable. The older mill was run by what is called an overshot wheel. Later another mill was erected by Col. Stephen Cornelius Pritchard who used the turbine wheel for power. On this old water power location was also an up and down saw mill, a carding machine which did splendid work, and a planing machine which made Dunmore a very business center."

As near as I can get it by what the older people tell me, Andrew Mathews built the first mill on this location some time before the Civil War. No one seems to know if he also owned the saw mill and carding machine or not, but since they were run by the same power, it is believed that he did.

According to Miss Ella Pritchard, Andrew Mathews sold his land to William L. Duncan and Isaac Moore. They changed the name of the place from Mathewville to Dunmore, using a combination of their names. Duncan then sold to John W. Warwick in 1855, and in 1860 it was bought by John Andrew Warwick, who in turn sold to a Mr. Johnson of Warm Springs, Va. Then in 1873, Cornelius Pritchard

exchanged a farm on Jackson River for this land at Dunmore. He built the present mill not long after he moved here. Therefore it was built sometime in the 1870's.

Cam McLaughlin, the present owner of the mill showed me through the old mill and explained the purpose of each machine. All of the old original machinery, cog wheels and all are of wood, and still in use. Lumber for the mill was sawed on the old up and down saw mill. Every piece was cut on the ground and ready for assemblage before the foundation was ever laid. Then when Mr. Pritchard started to build, all he had to do was to put it together. The old wheel was an overshot wooden wheel, this was replaced by a turbine. Mr Pritchard died leaving the mill to his heirs. They did not run it themselves but rented it or hired millers to run it for them. Among those caring for the mill for a time were Luther Campbell and Jack Duffy. About fifteen years ago the mill was bought by Cam McLaughlin. He built an addition to it which he used as a garage. For many years the mill was idle. Mr. McLaughlin made a wooden wheel to generate power for lights and to charge battery's etc. This wheel was replaced a few years ago by a metal wheel. About three years ago Mr. McLaughlin started the old mill to running again. Few people liked the unbleached flour so he does not grind wheat but uses the wheat burrs to grind buckwheat flour. It also has a corn burr.

There is some talk now of it being sold to a brewery company who wish to use the mineral water. Whether this deal goes through remains to be seen.

The Dunmore Roller Mill built by Winifred McElwee was not built until 1912.



Juanita S. Dilley  
Clover Lick, W. Va.  
Pocahontas County

James E. A. Gibbs

Gibbs was a mechanic, a man of the tenant class who barely made a living for himself and his large family. For a time he was in charge of a combined grist mill, carding machine, and sawmill built by James A. Price at Marlins Bottom.

The idea of making a sewing machine came to Gibbs while he lived in the Little Levels on lands belonging to Col. Samuel Ruckman. It is said that his working model was carved by him from a laurel root.

He went into partnership with a man by the name of Wilcox at Wilmington, Delaware. Gibbs came back to Marlinton, leaving Wilcox to introduce the machine to the public. The Civil War broke out and he remained here. The Gibbs family almost starved.

When communication was opened with the north, after the war, Gibbs found that Wilcox had made a great success of the sewing machine, and had banked Gibbs' part of the money for him. Gibbs returned to Delaware and from that time on he was a rich man.

In the 1890's, Gibbs came back to Marlinton for several visits. He was over six feet tall and wore a tall silk hat. He said at that time that he had taken out 163 patents. His chain stitch sewing machine was known for generations as the Wilcox and Gibbs machine.

From---Pocahontas Times-Jan. 2, 1930  
Calvin Price

Pocahontas Times---1923  
Andrew Price



Ch. 4, b. question 2 - Small Businesses

5, 3-b, question 2 - Millers.

John Johnson, whose home was at Marlins Bottom, heard that corn had matured in Nicholas. He started on foot to Nicholas, but lost his way in the Black Mountains. He was lost for nine days, but finally made his way to a house. There he was given food gradually until he could take a full meal. He made the trip to Nicholas, brought back the seed corn which planted one of the first crops grown in Pocahontas.

By the early part of the century corn could be ripened in the county, and since the people preferred corn meal to hominy meal, many grist and tub mills were built.

Some of the best known of these mills were: The two mills at Millpoint, built by the Cackleys. The lower mill being built by Valentine Cackley, who also promoted other industries such as a tannery, a tin hammer and a store. This was around 1830. The upper mill was built by Joseph Cackley in 1834 but was later sold to Sampson Matthews.

The Poage Mill on Knapps Creek. This mill was built in the late part of the 18th century by James Poage. When he emigrated to Kentucky, he sold it to Peter Lightner. Lightner improved it and for years accommodated a wide circle of customers. The Henry Harper mill succeeded this mill. The burrs used by this mill are on Cummings Creek, having been taken there by Price McComb. They are believed to be among the oldest in the county. These millstones were made by Adam Sharratt near Friels on the Greenbrier River. Sharratt also had a mill on Greenbrier River.

Dilley's mill, eight miles from Huntersville on Thorpe Creek was built by Henry Dilley one of the four Dilley brothers who were among Pocahontas County's earliest pioneers. This mill was kept in the possession of the Dilleys throughout its years of service to the public, and the farm on which it stands is still in their possession.

The Michael Daugherty mill on Mill Run near Sunset. This is believed to be the first tub mill, propelled by water anywhere in this whole region. It was patronized by all sections of upper Pocahontas and had the reputation of being one of the best of its kind. Sometimes these tub mills were put on runs that had only sufficient water during the rainy season. For such mills a long hollow log was often used for trunking to carry the water to the wheel. These mills did not grind so much but their product was the sweetest and best obtainable. Michael Daugherty was one of the first of the nobility to settle on Knapps Creek. He was not only able to pay his own passage to America, but to hire the services of those who sold themselves as indented servants for a certain period of time.

Swago Mill operated by Jonathan McNeill. He was the eldest son of Thomas McNeill who came to Swago around 1769 and appears to have been an enterprising person. Milling, weaving, fulling cloth and powder making was carried on under his supervision. Coverlets woven by one Jones were still in use fifty years or more after they were woven. This mill is now held by Judge George McClintic, though of course its no longer in use.

There were many other grist mills. David James one of the first men to live on Droop Mountain had a mill. James Wanless a local minister operated two grist mills. Henry Clark had a mill on Spring Creek, but I haven't been able to get any authentic information about them. In fact, in every community of the county there were mills at one time or another. Mills have been placed on almost every stream of water large enough to turn a small wheel if only during the rainy season.

The burrs or stones for many of these mills were made from sandstone found in this county in such great quantity and of unusual hardness. Calvin Price has a pair of these mill stones made more than a century ago by John Hannah of Elk, for the mill that was on the Varner place on the Big Spring Fork of Elk R. They were given to Mr. Price by the late Samuel Varner when he sold his farm. They are about 30 inches in diameter, and weigh over 100 lbs. each. Mr. Price believes they are made of this Droop sandstone found here in the county.

However, as soon as it was possible, the home made millstones were replaced with imported stones. French burrs appear to have been the desired ones in the more permanent mills that did custom grinding. The early settler was a resourceful man and if he could not get the imported ones he made them from material at hand.

About the Varner Mill, the story goes that John Hannah built the outfit complete in one day except the "jigging thing". That appears to have been the bark or board attached to the bottom, stationary stone, down which spouted the meal. These mills served well their day and an occasional one can be found still standing, though not in use. (Some of these mills were repaired and used by the moonshiners during the days of prohibition.)

Aside from these grist mills there were also powder mills located on many of the mill runs of the county. The original name of Mill Run on Lanty McKeel's place between Hillsboro and Beard, was Powder Mill Run. The site of the power mill was just above where the county road crosses. The powder maker was a man by the name of Hannah. He had a peculiar and effective line of sales talk. He would remark that he made powder and had plenty of it, and would sell it, but that many of the hunters did not like his product, in fact he did not particularly care to use it himself. This of



reply would be that it was too quick. A quick powder of course was the one most desired for the old type of mountain rifle.

Thomas McNeill, the Swago pioneer, maintained considerable of a powder plant on Swago Creek, near the residence of Squire Rogers. He boiled his salt petre from the rich soil to be found in the limestone caves of this region, particularly the cave on the McClintic lands not far from the residence of Lee Overholt. The proper amounts of sulphur, nitrogen, charcoal and what not were compounded together and the paste had to be mixed like the lady beats a cake. Thomas McNeill had a mill to do this stirring and beating by water power, and to grind the mass into powder after it was dry. One day he had a big stirring of powder on a grinding and went home to dinner. Something went wrong: somehow a spark was generated, and the whole thing, mill and all, blew up.

Information: History of Pocahontas County - Price  
and from old copies of the Pocahontas Times dated  
August 13, 1931.

The first business of any kind established at Marlins Bottom (Marlinton) was a combined saw mill and carding mill built by James A. Price before the Civil War. It was located on the slough along the road leading to Campbelltown, just opposite the home of A. C. Pifer. It was run from water from Stony Creek. An effort to augment this power by water from Greenbrier River from an intake just below the mouth of Stony Creek failed, and the plant itself was washed away in the flood of 1877. This mill was in charge of a man by the name of James E. A. Gibbs, who was a man of the tenant class and who barely made a living for himself and a large family.

From the Pocahontas Times - 1923.

A few families, such as John R. Flemmens on Red Lick Mountain made hundreds of pounds of maple sugar every year. It was stirred until it pulverized and became as light as brown sugar. Much of it was taken to

Lewisburg and exchanged for kettles and household goods. Almost every family made enough sugar for their own use. After Mr. Flemmens death, Mrs. Flemmens and her daughter, Elizabeth, lived at Buckeye and earned a living by spinning and weaving.

Juanita S. Dilley  
Clover Lick, W. Va.  
Pocahontas County  
Chapter 5  
November 28, 1940

### EARLY INDUSTRY-- LIVERY STABLES

For many years before the coming of the automobile, the livery stable business was an important pioneer industry.

These were located at Marlinton, Durbin and Seebert.

The first livery stable at Marlinton was built by James Henry G. Wilson, an Englishman who came to Marlinton in 1894 when the town was still very young. He was an honor graduate of Oxford, class of 1890. He had a thousand pound to invest, so he left England and sailed for America. He arrived in Pocahontas county in September, by spring wagon. The first horse he acquired was a kind of outlaw among horses, heavy on his feet and with a mean disposition. Wilson changed his name to Satan. He built a livery barn about where Killingsworth's planing mill now stands. He had ten horses that he hired out to travelers. The charge was one horse, one day, one dollar. When he had become an expert with horses he acquired two the beautiful sorrel and the dog major. The trio were known and welcome far and wide.

This livery barn was succeeded by one just behind where the Pocahontas Memorial Hospital now stands. It was built by Jack Apperson and rented by Levi Gay and Anthony Kincaid. After a few years these barns were destroyed by fire and the last stables were the Harvey livery barns on



the location of Williams and Pifers Store. This one was run by W. A. McLaughlin. It was succeeded by a stable run for a year or two by Wilbur Clark and bought by Z. S. Smith, Sr. in 1906. It is said that Clark would shoe a horse while it ate and thus have it ready for the road by the time the rider had eaten his dinner. Z. S. Smith, Sr. operated this stable until the cars put it out of business in 1920. For a few years Smith had both horses and cars for hire. His charges were per day \$1.50 for a riding horse, horse and buggy \$2.50, and \$4.00 for a wagon, two horses and a driver. Some of those who drove for him were: Paul Stewart, John Malcomb, Willis Courtney, Tom Courtney and Ray Kellison. Part of this old stable still stands just behind the Smith Funeral Home.

There were other smaller stables for a year or two, but have been able to get no authentic information except that one stood about where the railroad now is just above the depot and the other where Howard McElvee's house now stands.

In 1889 there was built in the west end of Durbin a livery stable by Dave Hiner and Cam Daniels. They had ten to fifteen head of horses. It was later owned by J. Graves and H. Freeman and run by G. D. Kincaid with twenty horses. With these horses Mr. Kincaid moved both the Hosterman Lumber Co. and the lumber company to Cass, down the railroad grade before the steel was laid.

The stables were later moved to the east end of town and were owned by A. B. Kincaid. The charge was \$5.00 for a horse and carriage to Elkins, Monterey and points of like distance. This stable, too, went out of business with the coming of the automobile.

3

The stables at Seebert were owned by S. Gladwell with six or eight horses. The other one was owned by W. D. Clark. Neither of them were very profitable.

#### BLACKSMITHS AT MARLINTON

Samuel Gay was the first village blacksmith in the town of Marlinton. His shop was located where Will Stewart now lives. He was at one time Sheriff of the county, and was made postmaster in 1887.

The next blacksmith shop was about where The Peoples Store and Supply Co. now stands. It was first operated by Charles Z. Hevener, the big blacksmith from Mt. Grove. He lived in the Toll House, collected toll, kept postoffice, and blacksmithed for a living. Others who smithed in this shop were Clark Gum and Charles H. Dilley.

J. O. Hiner also had a shop at one time but it was later converted into a planing mill.

3 The only grist mill ever built in the vicinity of Stony Bottom was the old Adam Geiger mill built about the year 1890, and later sold to William Shinaberry. At the time of Geigers ownership he had a wide circle of customers, but soon after Shinaberry came into possession of the farm there were better roads and people took their grain to the bigger mills found elsewhere in the county. The water power arrangement, too, was not so good and grinding was more bother than a profit. The old mill still stands and part of the machinery is still there. *Ground both corn and flour.*

X Also about 1890, J. W. McClure of Indian Draft built a grist mill on his farm but it did not prove very profitable.

4  
was soon abandoned. Used it only about six years.

John R. Johnson who lived in the Brush community where Cameron Beverage now owns was a cooper. That is a person who made wooden tubs, churns and barrels.

Dick Knapp was also a cooper.

#### RATE OF WAGES

One day when I was looking through an old court order book at the court house I noticed that from 1825 to 1833 men were paid for work on the public roads \$.50, for clerk of the poles \$2.00, days service in keeping poles \$1.00, while they were paid \$8.00 for a wolf scalp.

By 1834 the price for a wolf scalp had raised to \$10. while wages remained the same. By 1843 wages were still \$.50 and wolf scalps were \$12.00

#### OLD QUILT

The oldest dated quilt in America according to the Russell Sage Foundation is a quilt owned by Mrs. Lou M. Coyner of Clover Lick. It is dated 1795. It is of applique *design.* Mrs. Coyner has had it on exhibit three times in New York.

From--\* Calvin Price

Tolbert Waugh

Luther McNeill

Marvin Carter

# A. W. Smith, Sr.

Q Mrs. G. D. Kincaid

William Shinnaberry

X J. W. McClure  
Mrs. Cowan



# OFFICE LETTER

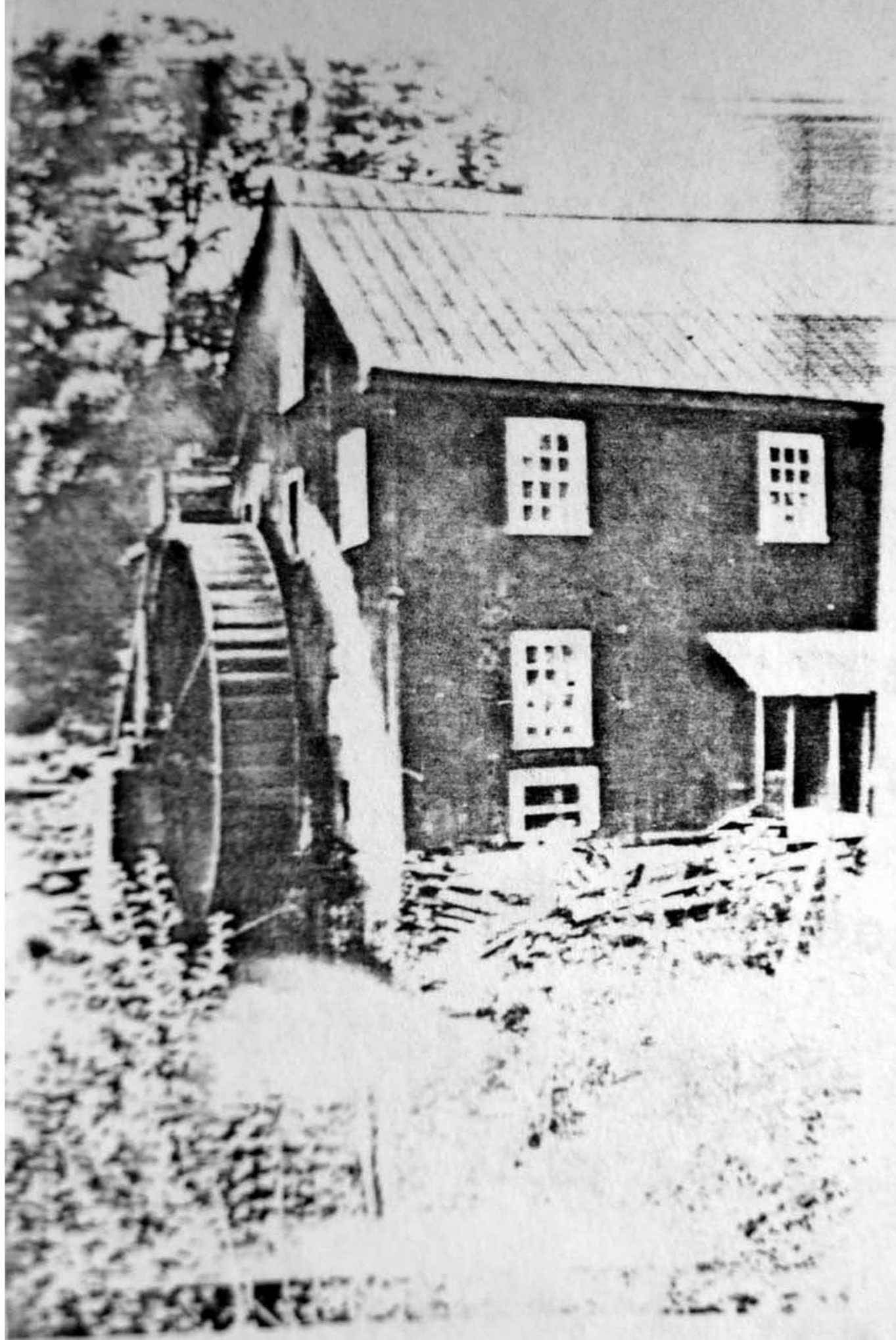
|         |                                |                            |                 |
|---------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| To      | Bruce Crawford, State Director | Date                       | October 4, 1940 |
| From    | Juanita S. Dilley              | Office                     | Referring to    |
| Subject |                                | Report for October 4, 1940 | File            |

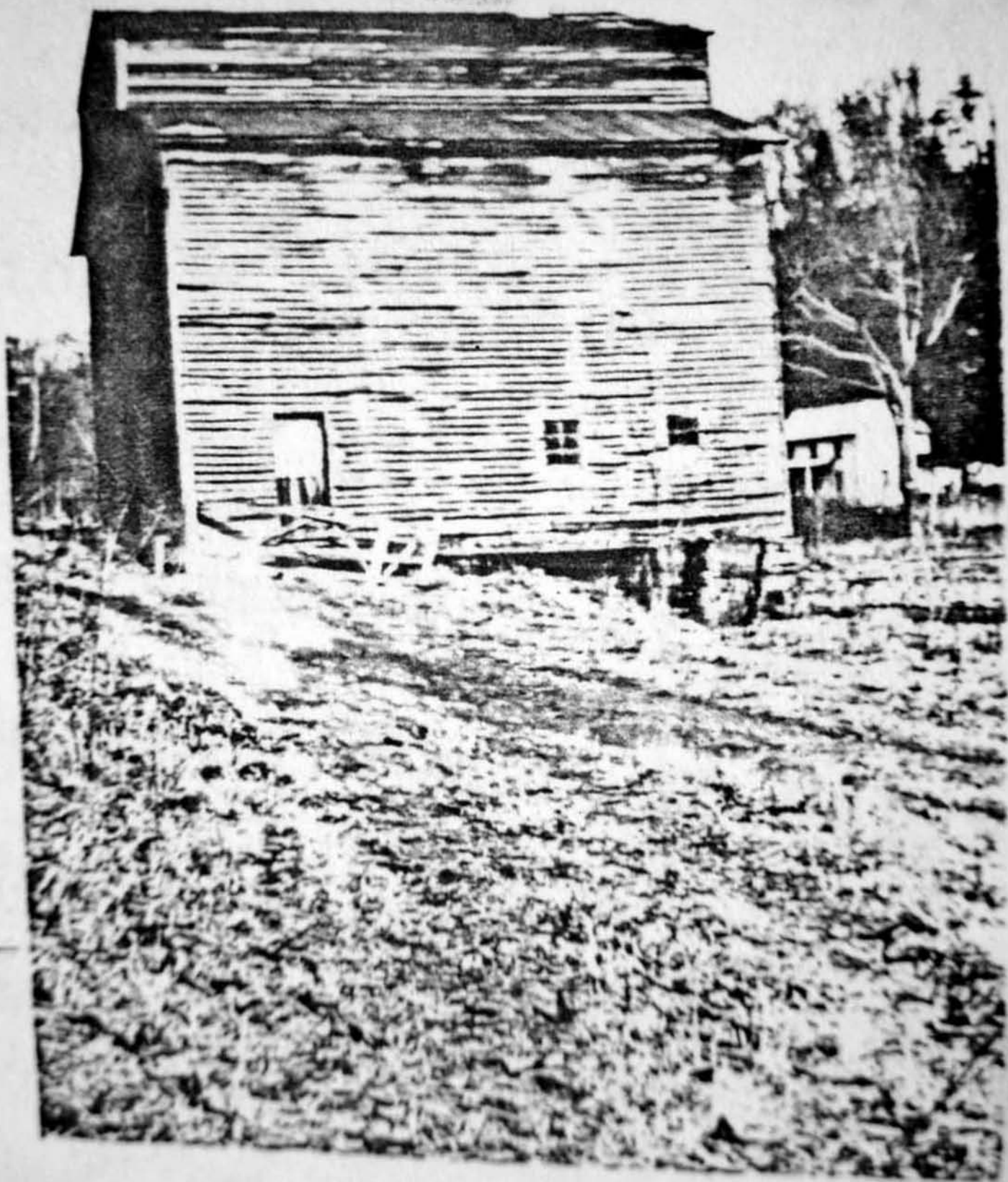
Separate sheet for each subject. Omit all formalities. For office letters only.

I am repeating a little of the material sent in at other times, but in this I have traced the ownership of some of the old mill from their beginning to the present time. Use this report in connection with those sent in on June 12 and June 18. I have checked all of the material in this one with the deeds given, and all of the dates were taken from those deeds. There are still a few more that I hope to have completed by next week.

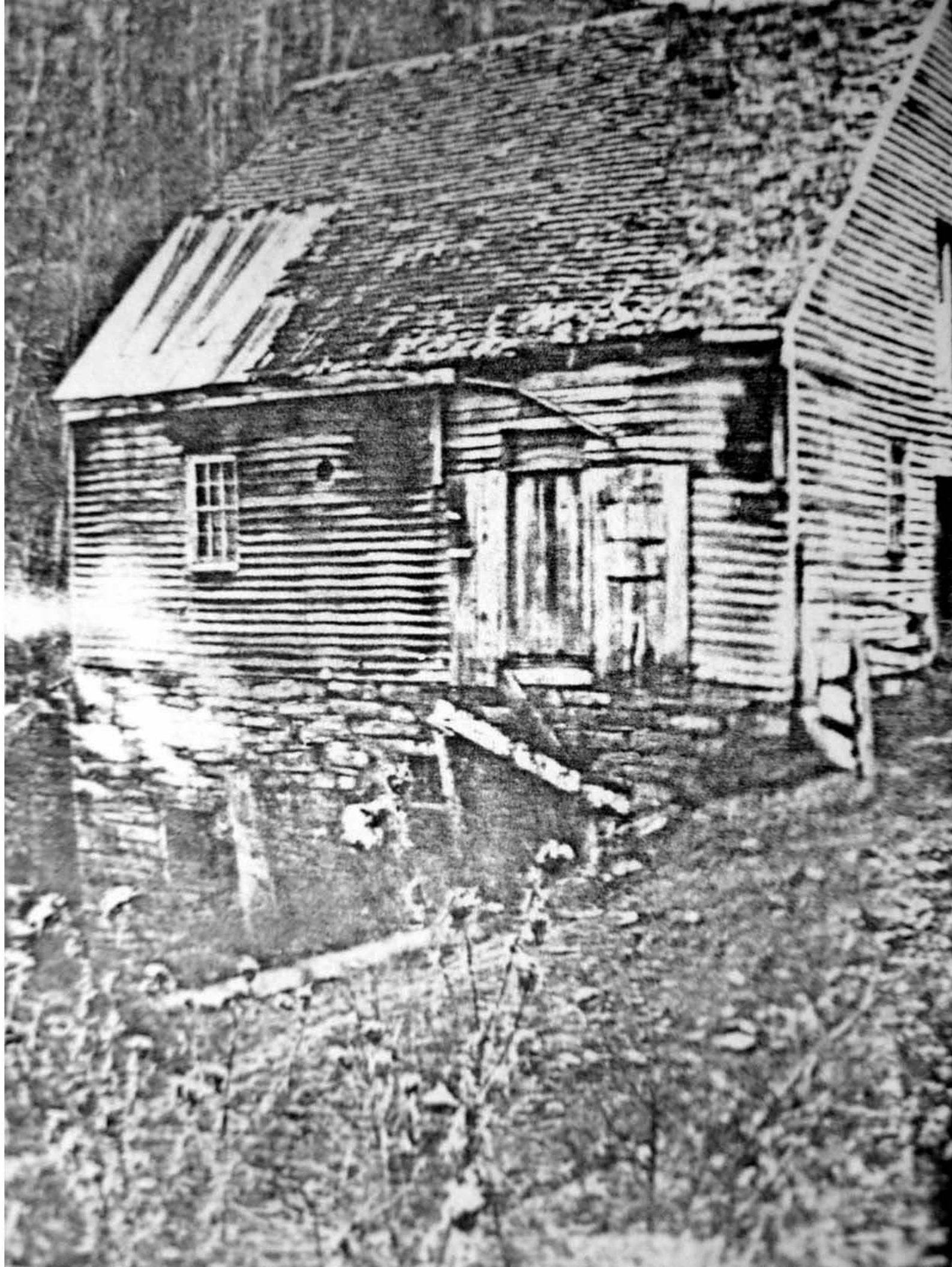
*J.S.D.*











*Pocahontas 7*  
West Virginia Writers' Project  
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce & Industry.

Date 4/25/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith

Date Research Taken 4/19, 23, 24/41 <sup>25</sup>

Typist Samuel G. Smith

Date Typed 4/25/41

Source Pocahontas Times. Marlinton.

Date Filed \_\_\_\_\_

R. W Brown Greenbank. W. Va.

And Employes of Gardner Packard at Cloverlick.



Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

41 The first Tub Mill and Saw Mill in the Greenbank community was owned and operated by the pioneer Wooddells probably Joseph Wooddell, this tub mill the top stone is stationary and the bottom stone the runner, while the grist mill the bottom stone is stationary and the top stone the runner a tilt hammer was installed at this mill which was greatly needed by the pioneers in making tools and implements of iron and steel this operation took place on the Henry Wooddell place in Greenbank, the lumber that finished the old colonial house of Jacob Warwick at Cloverlick was sawed on this mill at Greenbank thome 130 years ago. A Tilt Hammer was installed at this mill which was greatly needed by the pioneers in making tools and implements of iron and steel namely horse shoes, wagon tires, shovel plows, bolts, nails and many others, few people living in the town of Greenbank today know that such a machine as the Tilt Hammer was operated in the town of Greenbank.

About 1799 the water power of North Fork was beginning to be harnessed up this was called Cartmills Creek at that time, here a Tub mill was built that was in operation for 10 to 15 years this was all built by Harman Conrad, his son Solomon in later years remodeled the mill and added to the corn rocks a way to grind buckwheat and wheat and in connection had an Up and Down saw mill and a dry kiln which was always filled with the very best White Pine lumber that found a ready sale. This Solomon Conrad homestead is the oldest house in the Greenbank community.



Commerce & Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

About 1822 Patrick Bruffey built a grist mill and Saw Mill combined and in Connection had a blacksmith Shop and established a wagon shop and supplied the community and surrounding territory with wagons, Bruffey later became Sheriff of Pocahontas County and died 1853 and today you find milling going on at this same location but the mill is known today as The North Fork Milling Co, and from the very first has been the main stand by for the community.

The pioneer Daniel Kerr located on Deer Creek at the close of the Revolutionary War and established a grist mill, saw mill and blacksmith shop and a little later a lathe was installed and was operated by Fredrick Phillips who was a wheel right and made spinning wheels, looms, reels, spools, frames and chairs. This was the only water power mill on Deer Creek.

About 1819 Lundy Taylor settled on Galfords Creek and erected a grist mill and saw mill that was kept running until 1880.

About 1825 to 30 John Yeager erected a saw mill on Block Run a branch of North Fork and it was here that the finishing lumber was sawed for the old log church on the Allegheny Mountain. The old mill site was about two miles from the Yeager homestead and the Allegheny Battle Field on the Block Run the Monongahela National Forest passes through the old mill dam.

A few years after the Civil War Dr. J. P. Moonau erected an Up & Down mill near Greenbank, the lumber sawed was mostly Cherry which was sold to cabinet makers in this section and was made into furniture for the settlers of

Commerce And Industry Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas County.

41  
Greenbank community.,a carding machine was installed along with this mill turning out wool yarn to the many weavers of that time in and around Greenbank this carding machine was operated by William B Woodiell.

The last water power Saw Mill on North Fork was built and operated by Robert J Brown on Sutton Run,it was built about 1885 and was kept in running condition until 1907 in connection with this Saw Mill there was a rip saw,shingle mill,turning lathe and planing mill this was the first planing mill in the Greenbank community the finished lumber being used to finish the many houses that were being built by the settlers at this time.

The germs of time and decay have destroyed all the water power mills in this section except the North Fork Milling Company mill which is still in operation.

North Fork and Deer Creek of the Deer Creek valley beautiful mountain streams flow gently toward the sea with their power unharnessed.

Pocahontas County has many mountain streams and if harnessed would furnish an abundance of power to run machinery and generate electricity some of the most famous streams are Hills Creek,Locust Creek and Stamping Creek in the southern end of Pocahontas County,Williams River,Swago Creek,Beaver Creek,Knapps Creek and Clover Creek of the center of the county the latter Clover Creek has been harnessed near Cloverlick with a dam and a <sup>generator</sup> dinamo that furnish

Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.  
Electricity to Cloverlick and the surrounding territory this water wheel  
was installed by Berry Coyner of Cloverlick, and was erected in 1937 with a  
franchise from the state to set poles and furnish electricity to the people  
of Cloverlick and near by territory.

*of Bact. ind.*  
In 1931 a man by the name of Gardner Packard with his cousin the  
late William C Gardner started the operation of a post and rail plant at Cl-  
overlick the posts were locust and the rails of Chestnut bought from farmers

of Pocahontas County it required many thousand of each this has furnished a  
market for our Locust and Chestnut timber they were trucked to Cloverlick and  
there finished ready for shipment to New York and Maryland to be used for fen-  
cing as the salt water from the ocean in the mist that covers certain areas of  
these states causes fast decay of metal fencing most of these rails and post  
went to Long Island, they also made what is known as hurdle fence that went to  
New York state to be built on some of the old colonial estates where they have  
and raise fancy horses namely the Whitneys, Vanderbilts and others, the power to  
run this plant is generated at Cloverlick. This operation not only furnishes a  
market for our timber but furnishes employment to many men either at the plant  
or in trucking or cutting the timber from all over Pocahontas County.

These posts and rails are shipped out over the C & O from Cloverlick  
to Maryland, New York and other seaboard states.

Other streams that could be put to use in Pocahontas County are Deer



Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.  
Creek, North Fork, Galfords Creek, Sitlington Creek and a part of Cheat River  
of the upper half of the county and Elk River of the North Western part, the  
future of these streams is in in the making as they could be harnessed so as  
to furnish power for the entire county, electricity for the rural sections.

Greenbrier River with the fall it has could be put to work furnishing  
electricity for both power and lights and it is hoped that in the near futu-  
re some one will undertake to harness some of our many streams thereby furn-  
ishing electricity and power to the rural sections of Pocahontas County this  
would cause the wheels of industry to roll and Pocahontas County would again  
be one of W. Va. s industrial counties.

Information. Ist part from Pocahontas Times and R.W Brown. Greenbank. W. Va.

latter part. observation and employes of Gardner Packard working at Clover-  
lick.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Juanita S. Dilley

Clover Hick. "V. Va.

Chapter 5 section 3b

July 12, 1940

TANNERS, MILLERS AND BLACKSMITHS

NORTH FORK MILL

This mill was erected by Uriah Hevener, Sr., in the year of 1879, on the site of the old Bruffey flour mill. Patric Bruffey had erected a flour mill on the same site about the year of 1825 which was deiven by an over shot water wheel; he also had an up and down saw mill driven by the same water power arrangment, which had been supplanted by a new saw mill in the 1870's

In the last few years the mill was operated under the firm name of The North Fork Milling Company, but was known far and near as the Hevener Mill. It was erected when the famous white pine trees were plentiful and all the frame work was hewed and dressed by hand, all the framing was mortised, draw bored and pinned with locust pins. No spikes were used in the frame work. The entire building was four stories high including the basement and was a complete masterpiece of architecture. The modern carpenter would always stand in admiration and marvel at its perfect construction.

The services of James Elliott was secured to build the mill and with the help of Eldridge Brown and a Mr. Propps did all the carpenter work on the building. Charles P. Brown laid the foundation and did the mason work. The machinery was put into perfect running condition by a millwright by the name of Corann and Robert J. Brown, carpenter helper.

Many different millers operated the mill during the past sixty years. Perhaps Robert H. Gum worked the mill longer than any other miller.

In keeping up with industry, and in view of the needs of the Greenbank community it may be observed that the old Bruffey mill and the Havener mill was a center of industry and had their place of importance in the niche of the history of the Greenbank community.

James Elliott, the master mechanic of the building was a soldier in the Indian wars; was a private under the command of General George A. Custer, and General Reno. He was with Reno's army when Custer's company was massacred in 1876. Mr. Elliott's affidavit was taken by Squire John P. Townsend in 1926 for the purpose of securing a pension as an Indian war veteran. He died before the papers were ratified by the U. S. Government. He was a Confederate soldier in the Civil War under the command of General Kirby Smith, and Dick Taylor in the South West. After the war he worked his way from Mississippi to Iowa, and from there in company with a man named Reynolds went to the Dakotas on a trapping expedition and thereby enlisted in Custer's Army.

On Saturday night, March 2, 1940 the North Fork Mill was utterly and completely destroyed by fire. This disaster is considered the most unfortunate event of a calamitous nature that has affected the Greenbank neighborhood since the days of the Civil War. J. B. Orndorf owner of the mill had worked in the mill all day without fire. Different persons had passed the mill just after dark and saw no light or fire. The fire was discovered about 7 p.m., by Clyde Gillispie and Cecil Arbogast who live near by:



the whole inside was a mass of flames when first discovered. In less than half an hour the whole structure was a mass of ruined machinery. The entire loss is estimated at more than \$10,000.

The two turbine drive wheels are still in the water deck in regular arrangement. This mill has been the main stand by for the neighborhood for a period of about sixty years. - *From Times - By Roscoe Brown of Greenbank*

\* Patrick Bruffey, who erected the mill on this site in 1825 was a very useful and prominent citizen; a skilled workman in stone, iron and wood, and filled most of the official positions in the gift of the county.

\* John Jordan, the ancestor of the relationship of that name in lower Pocahontas, was a very worthy native of Ireland. By occupation he was a tailor, and when he once met a fellow member of the craft after a prolonged separation his friend was very demonstrative in the pleasure the meeting afforded him. In his joyful exhilaration he struck his friend Jordan on the back of his hand with a side blow of his own. This friendly lick was so powerful as to inflict a bruise so serious in its effects as to necessitate amputation of the arm just below the elbow. Nevertheless he learned to use a hoe or ax to a good purpose in after life. He came to this region as a traveling merchant, dealing in Irish linens and other portable merchandise. He was a "hard money" man in his financial preferences, and converted all paper money he received into silver and gold. Miss Miriam McNeel, daughter of John McNeel the pioneer, found out in some way that the young merchant had about a half bushel of coin, and it seemed to occur to her mind that if a person disabled as he was could make that much money,

he could certainly take good care of her. To the surprise of her friends that a nice sensible girl as she was should fancy a cripple, but she did not discourage the attentions of the hustling young Irishman, and they were married. At that period in our local history a young mans recommendation was his ability to clear land, split rails, and grub stumps, but to marry a cripple in store clothes was not to be thought of.

After their marriage Mr. Jordan continued to prosper in making a living, and purchased some servants to wait on the girl that had made such a surprising venture as to marry him. He settled on Millstone Run and opened up a fine farm. There were five sons and three daughters.

#### THE MCNEEL MILL

The McNeel mill at Millpoint was built about eighty years ago by Isaac McNeel. Mr. McNeel owned the mill until his death, after which time it belonged to his son Dr. Winters McNeel of Millsboro. On July 8th. I visited this mill and was told by the present proprietor G. N. Dalton that this mill had ~~always~~ been in operation practically every week day since its erection 80 years ago. He said that he had visitors from many states and that they believed it to be the only remaining frame key building in the world. I am not authority enough on the mills of the world to say if this is correct, but it is probably the only one in the county. At any rate the frame work is put together without nails, and is so well built that after 80 years there is not a give in the building, but it stands there as solid as if built only yesterday. This mill grinds both corn and wheat. Throughout the years it had ground unbleached flour, the only mill in the county that did not

*Output { It is at Danmore grinds unbleached flour*

*...the sheen worked the mill ...*

have a bleacher. Mr Dalton says that he has been told by authorities that it is the only known mill grinding unbleached flour.

However, in April 1940 a bleacher was installed, but he says that many people of the vicinity still prefer the unbleached flour and that he grinds about four barrels per month. Bread made from the unbleached flour is said not only to be more delicious but is also more healthful as bleaching takes out all of the oils. Mr. Dalton runs the mill for Mr. McNeel on a percentage bases, and he tells me that he is busy most of the time grinding flour, meal, and feed. The original water wheel was a wooden overshot wheel, but was replaced several years ago by a metal wheel.

There has been a mill at Millpoint ever since the one erected by Valentine Cackley, Sr. in 1800, and it has always been a paying business as there are so many good farms in the surrounding country side and much stock is also raised, therefore feed is always in demand. Both the Cackley mills were located a short distance down stream from the McNeel mill.

Wooden overshot water wheels wear out; they would get heavy on the shady side. The shrewd salesman from the north would then show the advantage of the steel fabricated water wheel and of the turbine. Take an artfully constructed water wheel out of commission and it is surprising how quickly it went to pieces.

Now while a mountain man who is worth his salt and tobacco can still take an axe and make a grist mill complete, big or little, as his present need may require, I must admit that we quit training up skilled, professional mill wrights a generation back, about the time we let ourselves get out of bear dogs.



## WILLIAMS MILL

However, a mill run by an overshot wooden water wheel is still to be found in Pocahontas. It was made and is still owned by Squire G. M. Williams of Bruffeys Creek. Some years ago for his own convenience and that of his neighbors he rigged himself up a grist mill. He worked rainy days and made himself a water wheel fifteen feet in diameter, out of wood. It makes around eight revolutions per minute. For a spindle he used the drive shaft of a tractor steam engine, gear and all. He dammed Bruffeys Creek to put the water in a sluiceway he dug around the hillside. For corn rocks he had the choice of French burrs or a pair of millstones made from Allegheny pebblestone out of the old Smith Mill on Greenbrier River above Seebert. The squire says the Allegheny stone is far superior to the much vaunted French burrs, as the Allegheny stone does not wear like other burrs, and so do not require dressing up so often. A Mr. Couch, railroad man and utility magnate from the Ozark region of Arkansas, wishes to make a grist mill run with an overshot water wheel; all home made. So, He sent three young men to Pocahontas to see what we had in the way of mills of this type. The Williams mill was visited and measurements and pictures taken.

They also visited the old Beard mill on Locust Creek, now owned by Sydney McCoy. (Read-Pocahontas Times, July 4, 1940 under item "Milling Around" for part of the above material.)

I visited the tannery of Benton Smith at Millpoint only a few days after Mr. Price and the three Arkansas travelers were there. I wanted to get the names of all the Smiths who had been tanners. He says that the first Smith of his family, so far as he

knows, was James Smith who was bound to a tanner in Staunton, Va. until he was twenty-one years of age. Then he came to Pocahontas County and rented Wallaces Tannery at Millpoint. He never had a tannery of his own. He had five sons, three of whom were tanners. Jake Smith had his tannery located at Edray, but he did not make up his leather. William Smith had no tannery but he made harness, saddles, and shoes. He also lived at Edray. It is probable that he bought the leather from his brother Jake. Joe Smith had a tannery and was located at Millpoint. Isaac Smith, another son, had his tannery on the Greenbrier River between Seebert and Watoga. Pleas Smith, the fifth son, lived at Edray and was a country doctor.

Edgar A. Smith, father of Benton Smith, has a tannery near Watoga. He tans the leather and does some repair work but does not make up much of his leather. Benton Smith says that he worked in the tannery with his father until four years ago, at which time he moved to Millpoint and built a tannery of his own. His is the good old oak tanned leather. The first spell is in the vat for one month; the second is for two months; the third for three months. If the leather is light that is enough. The fourth is for four months, and this is for heavy sides for sole leather. There were a lot of bear pelts in the process of tanning and the deer hides numbered more than one hundred. Mr. Smith has demand for tanned calf skin for leathercraft work. He makes harness and mens belts.

# Andrew Young was a shoemaker.

Sampson Nottingham-----a shoemaker.

Henry Arbogast-----a blacksmith.

7

and others. A. F. Mathews became the purchaser for \$2900 for lien upon land. Said Mathews signified to have the deed made to R. W. Hill and E. L. Beard. 25 acres including a Grist mill and Water power known as the Beard Mill Property. The deed was given March 5, 1901. In 1905 there was another suit of chancery over this property, and in 1907 it was sold to Charles S. Donnally. Donnally owned the mill until in 1911 when he sold to J. F. Gabbert. Gabbert later sold it to Bertie Hiner and husband, T. H. Hiner. In 1922 there was another suit of chancery and on November 13, 1923 L. M. McClintic, Special Commissioner, Bertie Hiner and T. H. Hiner deeded it to James W. H. Poage who on March 17, 1925 sold it to W. W. McCoy, and on December 30, 1931 it was bought by Sidney McCoy the present owner. I think one would be perfectly safe in saying that this mill has the distinction of having changed hands more times than any other mill in all Pocahontas County.

#### Dilleys Mill---Thorny Creek

\* Dilleys Mill was first built by Henry Dilley, the pioneer, and in 1843 was deeded to his son John Dilley along with all of his lands on Thorny Creek, for support of he and his wife in their old age. John Dilley was a mechanic of remarkable skill to be a self trained workman. He was honest and industrious, and it is believed by his friends that he sacrificed his health to his useful calling through exposure. William H. Dilley another son was for many years the village blacksmith at Huntersville. John Dilley seems to have had but one child Frances wife of Lieut. Henry Moffett Poage who was killed during the Civil War. Mrs. Poage had died some time previously. As near as I can trace the ownership



Inventory of Materials

Topic:

*Old Mill*

W.Va

*Subsidiary*

Title:

*Mill Point  
Old mill on bank of Stamping Creek*

Author:

*Postmaster of Mill Point*

*Reply to letter*

Date submitted:

*Nov 23, 1937*

Length:

words.

Status:

Contents:

*Built about 1868 is still operating.*

Source:

Consultant:

Reliability:

File:

Foldar

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
OF WEST VIRGINIA

312 Smallridge Building,  
Charleston, W.Va.

J. N. ALDERSON  
ADMINISTRATOR

November 18, 1937.

Postmaster of Mill Point,  
West Virginia.

Dear Sir:

A few facts connected with the history of the old  
overshot water mill just west of the highway on the bank of  
Stamping Creek are needed by the Federal Writers' Project for  
the completion of the Mill Point story. I shall be greatly  
obliged if you will supply the answers to the following  
questions:

*A Carpenter by the name of Reed built the mill.*  
By whom was it built? *Mr. Isaac McNeil was the owner & had it built.*  
When was it built? *About 1868 or later part of 60's.*  
Is it now in operation? *Yes.*  
If not, when was it abandoned?

Thanking you for your kind cooperation, I am,

Very truly yours,

*John L. Stender*  
John L. Stender,  
State Director  
Federal Writers' Project.

JLS:ew

*R. H. Cuddidge.*  
*Postmaster of Mill Point.*

86068

Juanita S. Dille  
Clover Lick, W. Va.  
Pocahontas County  
Chapter 5  
November 28, 1940

### EARLY INDUSTRY-- LIVERY STABLES

For many years before the coming of the automobile, the livery stable business was an important pioneer industry.

These were located at Marlinton, Durbin and Seebert.

The first livery stable at Marlinton was built by James Henry G. Wilson, an Englishman who came to Marlinton in 1894 when the town was still very young. He was an honor graduate of Oxford, class of 1890. He had a thousand pound to invest, so he left England and sailed for America. He arrived in Pocahontas county in September, by spring wagon. The first horse he acquired was a kind of outlaw among horses, heavy on his feet and with a mean disposition. Wilson changed his name to Satan. He built a livery barn about where Killingsworth's planing mill now stands. He had ten horses that he hired out to travelers. The charge was one horse, one day, one dollar. When he had become an expert with horses he acquired the beautiful sorrel and the dog major. The trio were known and welcome far and wide.

This livery barn was succeeded by one just behind where the Pocahontas Memorial Hospital now stands. It was built by Jack Apperson and rented by Levi Gay and Anthony Kincaid. After a few years these barns were destroyed by fire and the last stables were the Harvey livery barns on



the location of Williams and Pifers Store. This one was run by W. A. McLaughlin. It was succeeded by a stable run for a year or two by Wilbur Clark and bought by Z. S. Smith, Sr. in 1906. It is said that Clark would shoe a horse while it ate and thus have it ready for the road by the time the rider had eaten his dinner. Z. S. Smith, Sr. operated this stable until the cars put it out of business in 1920. For a few years Smith had both horses and cars for hire. His charges were per day \$1.50 for a riding horse, horse and buggy \$2.50, and \$4.00 for a wagon, two horses and a driver. Some of those who drove for him were: Paul Stewart, John Malcomb, Willis Courtney, Tom Courtney and Ray Kellison. Part of this old stable still stands just behind the Smith Funeral Home.

There were other smaller stables for a year or two, but have been able to get no authentic information except that one stood about where the railroad now is just above the depot and the other where Howard McElvee's house now stands.

In 1889 there was built in the west end of Durbin a livery stable by Dave Hiner and Cam Daniels. They had ten to fifteen head of horses. It was later owned by J. Graves and H. Freeman and run by G. D. Kincaid with twenty horses. With these horses Mr. Kincaid moved both the Hosterman Lumber Co. and the lumber company to Cass, down the railroad grade before the steel was laid.

The stables were later moved to the east end of town and were owned by A. E. Kincaid. The charge was \$5.00 for a horse and carriage to Elkins, Monterey and points of like distance. This stable, too, went out of business with the coming of the automobile.

3

The stables at Seebert were owned by S. Gladwell with six or eight horses. The other one was owned by W. D. Clark. Neither of them were very profitable.

#### BLACKSMITHS AT MARLINTON

Samuel Gay was the first village blacksmith in the town of Marlinton. His shop was located where Will Stewart now lives. He was at one time Sheriff of the county, and was made postmaster in 1887.

The next blacksmith shop was about where The Peoples Store and Supply Co. now stands. It was first operated by Charles E. Hevener, the big blacksmith from Mt. Grove. He lived in the Toll House, collected toll, kept postoffice, and blacksmithed for a living. Others who smithed in this shop were Clark Gum and Charles H. Dilley.

J. O. Hiner also had a shop at one time but it was later converted into a planing mill.

3 The only grist mill ever built in the vicinity of Stony Bottom was the old Adam Geiger mill built about the year 1890, and later sold to William Shinaberry. At the time of Geigers ownership he had a wide circle of customers, but soon after Shinaberry came into possession of the farm there were better roads and people took their grain to the bigger mills found elsewhere in the county. The water power arrangement, too, was not so good and grinding was more bother than profit. The old mill still stands and part of the machinery is still there. *Ground both corn and flour.*

X Also about 1890, J. W. McClure of Indian Draft built a grist mill on his farm but it did not prove very profitable.

4  
was soon abandoned. Used it only about six years.

John R. Johnson who lived in the Brush community where Cameron Beverage now owns was a cooper. That is a person who made wooden tubs, churns and barrels.

Dick Knapp was also a cooper.

#### RATE OF WAGES

One day when I was looking through an old court order book at the court house I noticed that from 1825 to 1833 men were paid for work on the public roads \$.50, for clerk of the poles \$2.00, days service in keeping poles \$1.00, while they were paid \$8.00 for a wolf scalp.

By 1834 the price for a wolf scalp had raised to \$10. while wages remained the same. By 1843 wages were still \$.50 and wolf scalps were \$12.00

#### OLD QUILT

The oldest dated quilt in America according to the Russell Sage Foundation is a quilt owned by Mrs. Lou M. Coyner of Clover Lick. It is dated 1795. It is of applique *design*. Mrs. Coyner has had it on exhibit three times in New York.

From--\* Calvin Price

Tolbert Waugh

Luther McNeill

Marvin Carter

# L. S. Smith, Sr.

Q Mrs. G. D. Kincaid

W William Shinnaberry

X J. W. McClure  
Mrs. Cowen



# OFFICE LETTER

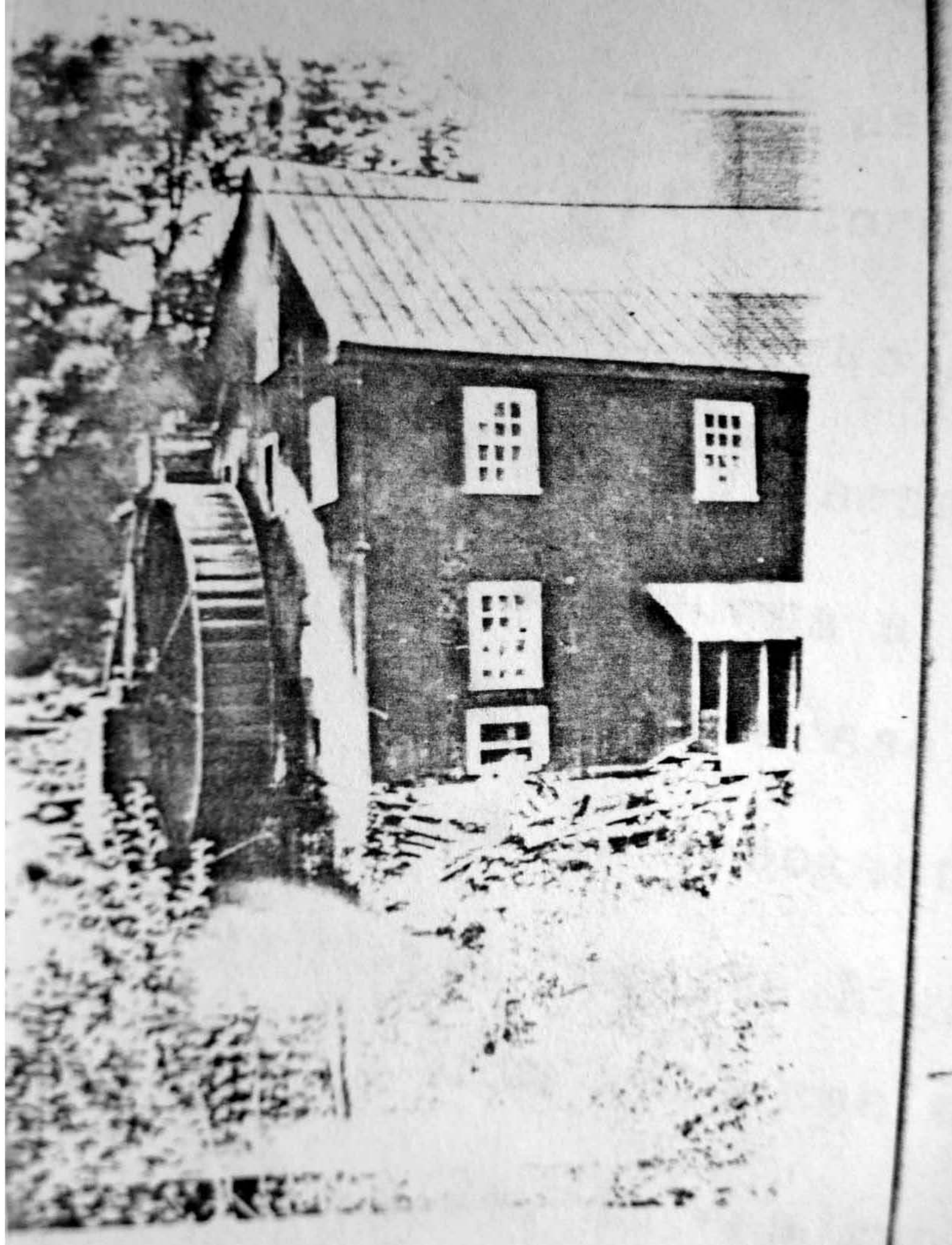
|                                    |                                |        |                 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| To                                 | Bruce Crawford, State Director | Date   | October 4, 1940 |
| From                               | Juanita S. Dilley              | Office | Referring to    |
| Subject Report for October 4, 1940 |                                | File   |                 |

Separate sheet for each subject. Omit all formalities. For office letters only.

I am repeating a little of the material sent in at other times, but in this I have traced the ownership of some of the old mill from their beginning to the present time. Use this report in connection with those sent in on June 12 and June 18. I have checked all of the material in this one with the deeds given, and all of the dates were taken from those deeds. There are still a few more that I hope to have completed by next week.

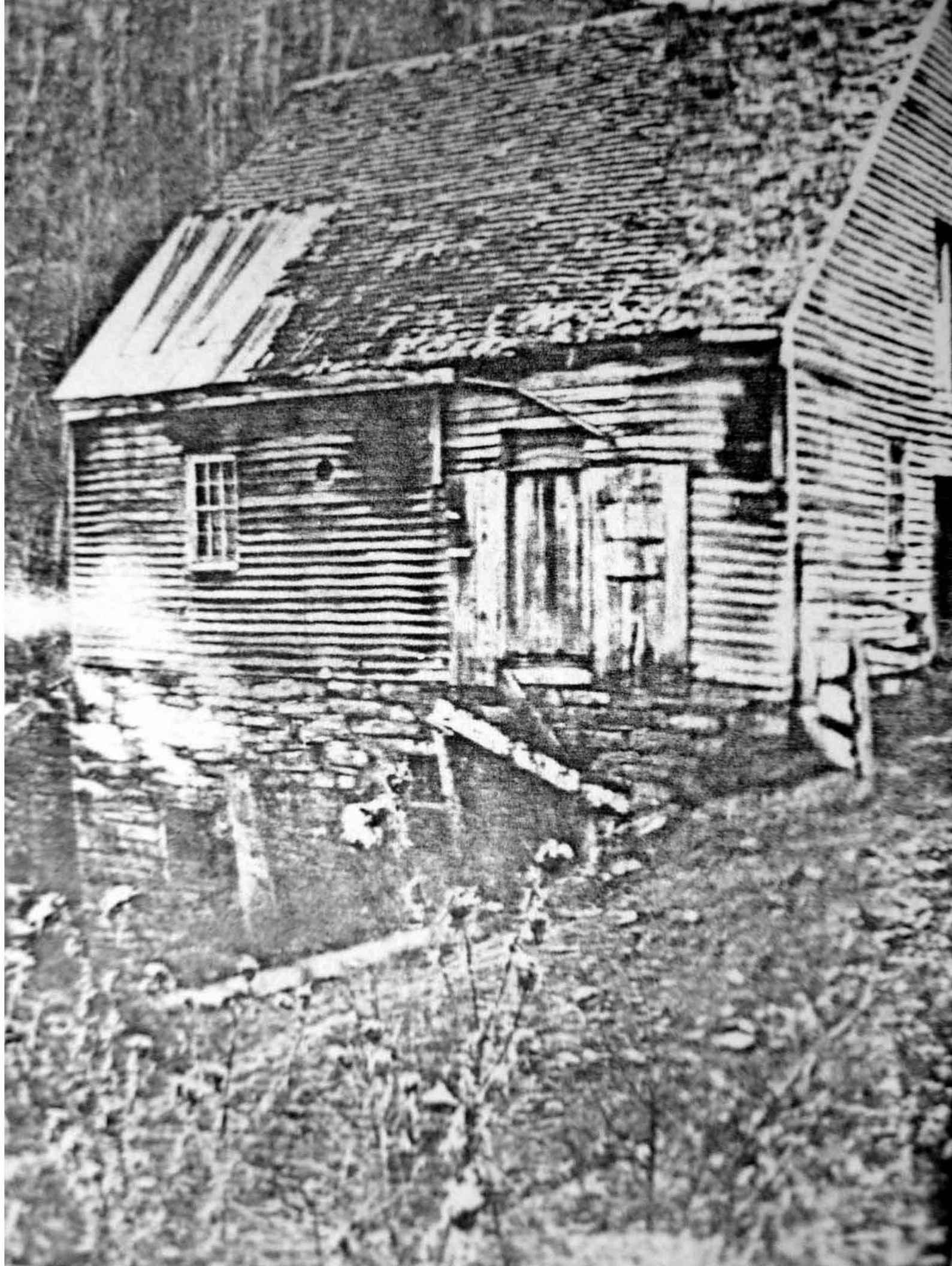
J. S. D.











Juanita S. Dilley  
Clover Lick, W. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

October 4, 1940

Chapter 5 Pioneer Industry

## MILLS ---- BLACKSMITHS ---- TANNERS

The first mill ever built on Stony Creek was a small tub mill built by Henry Duncan in 1824. He served his apprenticeship in Virginia and came to Pocahontas as one of our first carpenters. He helped build the old Court House at Huntersville, the old brick Oak Grove Church and old Hamline Chapel log church. His tub mill was at the head of the Big Spring. He leased this land for a period of eight years and built thereon a mill. It ground corn and buckwheat. It is believed that he discontinued the mill at the end of his lease and that John Duffield built his mill about seventeen years later.

Court records show that John Duffield bought land on Stony Creek in 1839. No doubt he built the mill a short time after coming into possession of the land. This tract of land consisting of 380 acres was a part of 22,000 acres originally patented to Henry Philips assee of James Patent and was sold on August 6, 1839 by Jacob H. Arbogast, Commissioner of Delinquent Lands. John Duffield was the highest bidder.

This mill was an old log building. It ground both corn and wheat. It was run by an overshot, wooden water wheel.

On January 31, 1878 Jacob Waugh bought of John Duffield 78.75 acres on which was built a mill for the sum of \$600. And on February 20, 1895 the heirs of Jacob Waugh sold the "Duffield Mill Property" to Samuel D. Waugh for \$1800. On February 28, 1899 Samuel D. Waugh sold the property to Godfrey Geiger for \$1800.

and Bank  
No. 13  
26

*Book no. 28*  
 Godfrey Geiger owned and operated this mill until June 8, 1929 when he sold it to the present owner Tolbert Waugh. This mill has both corn and wheat burrs but Mr. Waugh does not use the wheat burrs.

The old log mill built by John Duffield was torn down and the present mill built by Jacob Waugh and sons in 1890.

*no. 10-159*  
 Perhaps the next grist mill to be built on Stony Creek was one built by Nathan Barlow in 1850 which ground corn only. In connection with this mill was a carding machine. This mill stood just below where the fish hatchery now is. It was run by a wooden overshot water wheel. On May 7, 1872 Nathan Barlow sold this property to James Auldridge. Mr. Auldridge used this mill until 1890 when it was discontinued and some time later was torn down. The burrs were sold to a man by the name of Cassell and they were taken up on Leatherbark and put in a mill built by Cassell.

*Book no. 10-7157*  
 Wesley Barlow had a tan yard where the barn Hepsidam now stands. This is just above the fish hatchery and in sight of the Nathan Barlow mill. It is said that one time Mr. Barlow let the fire get out and he ran up over the hill calling, "Help I Dan", and since he did not speak plain it sounded like he was saying "Heps i dam" and the place has been called Hepsidam ever since. He sold his tanyard to James Auldridge in 1872. This made Auldridge owner of a grist mill, a carding machine and a tanyard from 1872 until 1890. People still referr to it as the Jimmy Auldridge mill.



At the head of the Big Spring branch of Stony Creek was a grist mill and an up and down saw mill built by Isaac Moore sometime prior to the Civil war, perhaps this mill was built before the Barlow mill. During the summer and fall of 1861 Edray swarmed with soldiers on the march and in camp. Mr. Moore contracted camp fever then measles, from which he died Dec. 5, 1861. From that time until 1884 the mill was run by his son Taylor Moore. On March 1, 1884 Taylor Moore and Mary C. his wife deeded to George H. McLaughlin 24 acres on Stony Creek including the head of the Big Spring branch and a water grist mill and a saw mill for \$1800. This mill ground both corn and wheat. In connection with the mill the McLaughlins had a still which made peach and apple brandy.

In 1900 D. L. Barlow built a planing mill and a corn grist mill just about where the bridge now is. It was run by a turbine. This mill was discontinued in 1910.

The first saw mill on Stony Creek was an up and down mill built by William Cochran where Porter Sharp now lives. According to Bardesty's Encyclopedia this was the first saw mill in Edray District. He also had a blacksmith shop and a tilt hammer.

The only mill now in operation on Stony Creek is the grist mill owned by Tolbert Waugh. But there have been some larger saw mill that will be covered in chapter 7.

Mr. and Mrs. George Courtney of Buckeye were weavers by trade. It is said that they made a good living with the proceeds of the loom.

George White on Laurel Creek had an up and down saw mill.

John Tyler of Edray was a blacksmith. He made wagons and was a master of repairing machinery. The only man in Pocahontas county at that time who could put cogs in the masterwheel of the old horse power thresher.

Jake and John Simmons were shoemakers, and Buck Waugh on Greenbrier river was a shoemaker.

#### MILLS AT MILL POINT

These old mills built by the Cackleys have been mentioned in previous reports, but in this I am going to trace their ownership from the beginning to the present.

The lower mill which stands just over the bank below the state highway, was first built by Valentine Cackley, Sr. about 1800 and was one of the very first mills ever built in Pocahontas county. At the death of Valentine Cackley, Sr. the mill went into the hands of his heirs Valentine Cackley, Jr. and others. The mill was either rebuilt or repaired by them in the 1830's. In 1856 they sold the mill to Dr. Mathew Wallace. Dr. Wallace brought a man by the name of Roch from Monroe county to run the mill for him. Roch's descendants have continued to be millers and millwrights. Along with this mill property was also a carding machine a blacksmith shop and a tannery, all of the built by the Cackleys. James Smith was one of the tanners to work in this tannery during the ownership of Dr. Wallace. ( see report for June 12, 1940 page 7 )

In 1882 Dr. Wallace sold this property to Uriah Bird. Bird did not use the carding machine during his period of ownership. The old Cackley mill was torn down by Uriah Bird and the present mill erected on almost exactly the same site.

In 1892 Bird sold this mill property to Wellington T. Hogsett. He was a preacher therefore did not run the mill himself. Some of those who took care of the mill for him were: John Burgess, John Dotson, James Gabbert, Steel McClintic, O. B. Wilson, Henry Poage, and W. L. (Bud) Hogsett.

~~Joe~~ Dilley and a colored man by the name of George Lee were two of the blacksmiths who have worked in this shop.

This grist mill ground corn, wheat, buckwheat, and feed. "Bud" Hogsett was a good mechanic and during the time he run the mill he did some repair on it, putting it in excellent condition. He also bought new teeth for the carding machine and set it to running again. People say that this was the best carding machine ever built in the county and people for many miles brought their wool here to be carded. (Because of some dissatisfaction among the heirs, he quit the mill ). For upon the Death of W. T. Hogsett the property went to his heirs of whom "Bud" Hogsett was one.

The Hogsett heirs still own this mill, but they say that it does not pay them to hire a miller to run it for them and for some reason the estate has never been settled. The mill has been idle for the past four years. The dam is now washed out but other than that the mill is in very good condition.

The upper mill was built by Joseph Cackley some time soon after the lower mill was built. There was also an up and



down saw mill on this location built either by the Cackleys or by Sampson L. Mathews. It went into the possession of Valentine Cackley and James Cackley and they sold it to Sampson L. Mathews in 1834. Mathews then moved from his home on Swago and spent the remainder of his life at Mill Point. Mary the only child of Sampson L. Mathews married William H. McClintic and came into possession of the mill and saw mill upon the death of her father in 1854. In 1865 William H. McClintic sold this property to Isaac McNeel. (see report for June 12. 1940 for the history of McNeel's mill) Isaac McNeel built the present mill just a short distance from the <sup>site of the</sup> old Cackley mill.

Hunter McClintic, son of William H. McClintic, built the old red mill on Swago. It was just below the site if the old Jonathan and Phebe McNeill mill. It ground both corn and flour, and was built sometime in the 1880's. It was called McClintic's Old Red Mill. Grose and Armentrout were the millwrites. This mill has been idle for a good many years, and was torn down a few years ago.

#### Beard Mill Property-----Locust Creek

The first mill on this property is believed to have been built by Josiah Beard, a pioneer, and seems to have been rebuilt, or a new mill built by his son Edwin Beard. I could find no date as to when the mill was built but in July 1893 Edwin L. Beard and Mollie his wife sold the "Beard Mill Property" to W. H. Overholt. In 1897 L. J. Williams was appointed Special Commissioner to sell the land as decreed by the June term of court in the suit of L. J. Williams and J. C. Patterson, trustees, vs W. H. Overholt

Lewisburg and exchanged for kettles and household goods. Almost every family made enough sugar for their own use. After Mr. Flemmens death, Mrs. Flemmens and her daughter, Elizabeth, lived at Buckeye and earned a living by spinning and weaving.